

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Honoring the memory of Ralph J. Rivers.

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

7 WHEREAS in 1976 Alaskans witnessed the passing of the last of their
8 original statehood delegation in Congress through the death of the Honorable
9 Ralph J. Rivers; and

10 WHEREAS Ralph J. Rivers first came to Alaska at the age of three in 1906
11 and was raised at Flat.

12 After completing his education in Washington he returned fulltime to
13 Alaska in 1931 where he entered the practice of law in Fairbanks.

14 Thereafter he mixed the active practice of law with a remarkable record
15 of public service:

16 U.S. District Attorney, Fourth Division, 1933

17 Attorney General, Territory of Alaska, 1945-49

18 Mayor of Fairbanks, 1952-54

19 Senator, Territorial Legislature, 1955-57

20 Delegate, Alaska Constitutional Convention, 1955-56

21 Alaska-Tennessee Plan Representative to the Congress,

22 1956-58, to work with "Senators" William A. Egan

23 and Ernest Gruening and Delegate E. L. Bartlett

24 in the fight for statehood in Congress

25 First U.S. Representative from Alaska in Congress, 1959-1967.

26 Upon his retirement from public life Ralph Rivers returned to his law
27 practice and after his full retirement in 1974 he received an honorary doctor
28 of law degree from the University of Alaska for his

29 "long and distinguished service on behalf of his fellow Alaskans

1 for his exceptional contributions to the cause of statehood".

2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Legislature, by
3 the adoption of this resolution, honors the memory of a distinguished public
4 servant and Alaskan who left an enviable record of service to the Territory
5 and State of Alaska. The Legislature, for itself and in the name of the
6 people of Alaska, extends its condolences and best wishes to Martha W. Rivers
7 and the other members of the family on their personal loss.